19. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 18, wherein the hygroscopic compound comprises one material selected from the group consisting of glycerol and ethylene glycol.

20. (Withdrawn) A method according to any one of claims 7 and 12, wherein the sensing element further comprises a buffer in addition to the dye.

21. (Currently Amended) An ozone gas sensing element comprising:

a transparent porous material comprising a water film formed in a pore of the porous material; and

a dye which is deposited in ~~a~~ the pore of said porous material and changes in a light absorption characteristic of a visible region upon reaction with ozone gas.

22. (Original) An element according to claim 21, wherein at least some pores in said porous material are coupled to pores on a surface of said porous material.

23. (Original) An element according to claim 21, wherein a pore in said porous material has such a pore diameter as to attain a predetermined transmittance in the visible light region.

24. (Original) An element according to claim 23, wherein the pore diameter is not more than 20 nm at which the dye can enter the pore.

25. (Previously Presented) An ozone gas sensing element comprising:

a transparent porous material; and

a dye which is deposited in a pore of said porous material and changes in a light absorption characteristic of a visible region upon reaction with ozone gas, wherein the dye comprises an aromatic compound having a diazo group.

26. (Original) An element according to claim 25, wherein the aromatic compound comprises one material selected from the group consisting of benzene, naphthalene, and anthracene.

27. (Original) An element according to claim 25, wherein the dye comprises a compound having any one of a hydroxyl group, a sulfurous acid group, and primary to tertiary amino groups.